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Homeless Man Charged in Attempted Kidnapping of Teen in Santa Clarita

A homeless man was charged today with attempting to kidnap and rape a 13-year-old girl from a Santa Clarita bus bench, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Guillermo Lomelí Ceniceros (dob 2/24/75) faces five felony counts: one count each of attempted kidnapping to commit rape, attempted kidnapping for child molesting and lewd act upon a child; and two counts of attempted aggravated sexual assault of a child.

Arraignment was scheduled for today, but it was continued to Dec. 10 in Department S of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, San Fernando Branch. The defendant is charged in case PA082484.

Prosecutors said Ceniceros grabbed the young girl as she sat on a bus bench near Sierra Highway and Jakes Way on Nov. 12. As the defendant allegedly began dragging the victim away, a good Samaritan driving by yelled at him to stop and the girl managed to run away.

If convicted as charged, Ceniceros faces a maximum possible sentence of 13 years in state prison. Bail was set at more than \$3 million.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Santa Clarita Station.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's</u> <u>Office</u> prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.